

Croton Nov 1st 1829

To the Governor & Gov Officers of the Penobscot Indians.

Having on several occasions stated to you my authority in behalf of the State of Maine; and the object the State had in sending me to confer with you, at your request, I will now reduce the substance briefly to writing -

In consequence of the progress of settlements up the Penobscot river, and the making of the military road which will tend to increase them, the State foresee that the townships at the mouth of the Madawaska River should be cleared and cultivated. To effect that object in behalf of the State I have proposed to purchase the townships, one or both or a part; but have not dwelt much on the subject of a direct purchase, as that course has not appeared to me so advantageous to ^{the Indians} you and the State as the other mode. To wit that the land may be sold by the State to cultivators in such quantities as shall be agreed upon between us; the State to be responsible to ^{the Indians} you for the purchase money and the interest.

If it will be agreeable to you I shall be willing to agree to the specific mode in which the land shall be surveyed into lots, and also the specific mode in which the lots shall be sold whether at auction or ^{lot} private sale, and fix the terms of payment regulating the whole with a view of obtaining the most for the land - If any of the Indians are disposed to become purchasers, I am willing to agree that they may on precisely the same terms and conditions with any other persons.

The profits of the purchase to be appropriated as the State and the Indians shall hereafter agree for their benefit. I have the fullest confidence in believing that any appropriation of the profits will be satisfactory to the State in proportion

as it shall produce happiness and comfort and improve
your means of living

I took a brief view the effect which the settlements made by
us were producing on your hunting grounds; that the time was
coming when the game would be destroyed, and that the English
as I understood would not allow you to hunt in Canada -
and suggested that if you were to have houses and barns and
cattle and sheep, that when the game should be all destroyed
you would live as comfortably as white people, and that the
interest which might be derived from the sales might well be
applied to aid you in the purchase of houses cattle sheep &c

I have stated the substance of my propositions, which the Priest
will be able to explain to you fully, as he has heard all my con-
versations with you - It is unnecessary for me to add, that I
have no wish, nor do I consider it my duty to the State, to obtain
from you the townships for nothing, or something very trifling
or to make any deceptive or uncertain agreement - You must
look to my whole course and examine the manner in which
I have conducted towards you, and from that you will see
whether or I am endeavoring to deceive you or not.

Whenever you are ready I shall be pleased to meet you
and make final arrangements touching the subject of our
present conference.

I am very respectfully
Yours or John G. Dene